

What is Claimed is:

1. An engineered yarn comprising of a series of spun fibers or filaments including at least one of the following: natural fibers, synthetic fibers and a combination of natural and synthetic fibers, and further comprising at least one core fiber and at least one sheath fiber, wherein the core and sheath fibers are engaged by needles arranged to penetrate substantially through a centerline of the yarn so as to penetrate and engage the core and sheath fibers and cause the core and sheath fibers to intermix as the needles move therethrough to provide the fibers of the yarn with enhanced resistance to unraveling, resistance to linting, an increase in bulk or desired aesthetic properties.
2. The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a composite yarn including a first yarn and a second yarn each consisting essentially of natural fibers, synthetic fibers or a combination thereof, the yarns positioned adjacent and parallel to each other such that the needles penetrate approximately through the centerline of both yarns so that the fibers of the first yarn to provide the yarn are intermixed with the fibers of the second yarn to weld the yarns together to form the composite yarn.
3. The yarn of claim 2 and wherein the first and second yarns each have different material properties such that the composite yarn includes the different material properties of both yarns.

4. The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the core and sheath fibers each have different material properties to produce a composite yarn incorporating such different material properties.
5. The yarn of claim 1 and further comprising a fibrous web including natural fibers, synthetic fibers or a combination thereof, and attached to the yarn by the engagement and intermixing of the fibers of the yarn and the fibers of the web resulting from the penetration and movement of the needles through the yarn and web.
6. The yarn of claim 4 and wherein the fibers of the yarn include fibers having enhanced liquid absorption properties and fibers having enhanced abrasive properties.
7. The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a Dref yarn.
8. The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises an open-end spun yarn.
9. The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a ring spun yarn.
10. The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a vortex spun yarn.
11. The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a worsted spun yarn.

12. The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a worsted carded fibrous mass.

at 13. A spun yarn having improved properties such as enhanced resistance to unraveling and linting, an increase in bulk or desired aesthetic features, comprising a core including fibers having desired material properties, and a sheath including fibers having additional desired material properties, the yarn being subjected to a needling process wherein the yarn is engaged by a series of needles that penetrate the fibers of the core and the sheath and cause intermixing of the fibers of the core and the sheath/as the needles pass therethrough.

14. The yarn of claim 13 and wherein the yarn comprises a composite yarn having a first yarn and a second yarn each consisting essentially of natural fibers, synthetic fibers or a combination thereof, the yarns positioned adjacent and parallel to each other such that the needles penetrate approximately through a centerline of the first and second yarns so that the fibers of both yarns are intermixed with the fibers of the second yarns to weld the yarns together to form the composite yarn.

15. The yarn of claim 14 and wherein the first and second yarns each have different material properties such that the composite yarn includes the different material properties of both yarns.

16. The yarn of claim 13 and wherein the core fibers and sheath fibers each have different material properties to produce a composite yarn incorporating such different material properties.

17. The yarn of claim 13 and wherein the fibers of the core and sheath are selected from the group consisting essentially of natural fibers, synthetic fibers and combinations of natural and synthetic fibers.

18. A yarn having improved material properties, including enhanced resistance to unraveling and linting or enhanced bulking of light weight yarns comprising at least one of a series of natural fibers, synthetic films, and a combination of natural and synthetic fibers or filaments forming a yarn bundle, the yarn bundle being subjected to a needling process wherein the fibers thereof are engaged and penetrated by a series of needles such that the fibers of the yarn bundle are intermixed to form the yarn.

19. The yarn of claim 18 and wherein the yarn bundle includes at least one core fiber wrapped with a series of sheath fibers.

20. The yarn of claim 18 and wherein the yarn bundle comprises a composite yarn including a first yarn and a second yarn each consisting essentially of natural fibers, synthetic fibers or a combination thereof, the yarns positioned adjacent and parallel to each other such that the needles penetrate approximately through the

centerline of both yarns so that the fibers of the first yarn are intermixed with the fibers of the second yarn to weld the yarns together to form the composite yarn.

21. The yarn of claim 20 and wherein the first and second yarns each have different material properties such that the composite yarn includes the different material properties of both yarns.

22. The yarn of claim 18 and wherein the fibers of the yarn bundle are engaged by the needles and the yarn bundle is advanced at a predetermined rate and distance between strokes of the needles during the needling process to create a desired aesthetic appearance for the yarn.

23. The yarn of claim 18 and further comprising a fibrous web attached to the yarn bundle by the engagement of fibers of the fibrous web with the series of needles during the needling process whereby the fibers of the fibrous web and the fibers of the yarn bundles are intermixed.